

## **Flo Ware Park Improvements**

### **Summary Community Meeting #3**

**Tuesday, April 15, 2003, Central Area Senior Center 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

*Meeting purpose: to review the final steps before Flo Ware Park improvements are constructed and make final decisions on play equipment colors and art.*

**Parks Planner Cathy Tuttle** summarized the project timeline:

- January 28, 2003 Meeting #1 to define the improvement project
- March 11, 2003 Meeting #2 to review and make final decisions for park plan
- **April 15, 2003 Meeting #3 to review color choices, art elements, review final plans**  
(this is the final community meeting)
- Flo Ware Park improvements will be constructed in the fall of 2003

**Parks Landscape Architects Randy Robinson and Shwu-jen Hwang** reviewed current plans. They can be reviewed at: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/floware.htm>

### **Play equipment**

Shwu-jen Hwang described play equipment. Community supports play equipment choices.

- Final decision reached on **play equipment color: red/black/green**. The community feels these festive colors respect the African cultures and will be attractive to children.
- Play area surfacing will be coordinated with play equipment colors.

### **Park furnishings**

Randy Robinson described other park elements

- Possibly bike rack, bollards
- Sign relocated to 28<sup>th</sup>
- Chess tables supported by SAFECO
- Question: Can benches, picnic tables be powder coated steel?

### **Paving**

- Hopscotch and four square games will be added to basketball paving
- Ribbon color will be colored red concrete
- Ribbon brass inset letters, please see “New art elements” below

### **Electrical**

- Five 16’ lights will be installed on timers. Currently one light operates in the park
- Some light fixture bases will have outlets for Parks and community use.

### **Fence**

- Fence to match existing will be added along northern boundary.
- Lower 4-foot fence will be added on south and west sides of basketball court. Opening in fence on NW corner of Park property will allow park entry from 28<sup>th</sup> St.

### **New art elements**

- Monad Elohim, a neighborhood artist, energetically explained his model of a sculpture of a woman representing Flo Ware. Her arms are outstretched offering a bowl. This bronze sculpture is lifesize or larger and is designed to fit over the drinking fountain, so that thirsty souls can press the button in her hands and drink water from the bowl. “Flo Ware served humanity, the fountain will serve them too.” Monad also reviewed an idea for tablets depicting stages of Flo Ware's life to be installed in the sitting wall by the

- childrens' play area. Funding for the sculpture and tablets is not available. The Friends of Flo Ware may hold a fund raising campaign next year for these art pieces.
- Sculptor Monad Elohim presented a concept and cost estimate for the lettering to spell out the sayings of Flo Ware in the “ribbon” path that diagonally crosses the park. This element does not currently have funding. Friends of Flo Ware will try to secure funding for this paving art element.

### **Entry art by Coyote Jr. High**

- An artist from Coyote Jr. High presented a model of the entry art – 3 pillars on each side of the main entry capped at one end by a roof truss shape with an engraved photographic image of Flo Ware. Beams connecting the tops of the pillars along the path would have flat images of people – sayings of Flo Ware below. The surfaces of the pillars will incorporate patterns reminiscent of many cultures. There was broad acceptance of this concept, with the understanding that the final artwork will be designed by the students in the summer program. Artwork will be constructed in July and installed this fall.
- Coyote art is made by students with engineering and artistic oversight.
- Community suggestion: do research on significant people in Central Area culture. Incorporate iconic images rather than images of “everyday” people in the art piece.

### **Community involvement**

Several community members said that they felt left out of the process and felt that the park redesign was meant to exclude them. Community members and Parks staff responded:

- Planning of the park has been an open process with first six neighborhood meetings in 2000-2001 and later three Parks meetings in 2002-2003.
- The overall intent of the re-design is to make the park people-friendly to everyone in the community.
- Upgrading the basketball to a half-court was expressly included in respect to the opinions of many young adults and children
- Parks staff encouraged community to become involved in upcoming Central Area Parks processes – Homer Harris Park, Barnett Park, Yesler Community Center.

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